

1 D-16 Sara E. Parsons 1910-1920

12 c Letters to Miss Parsons 1915-1921
Principally from France, also England, Belgium
Germany, Finland & US

World War I Correspondence

Miss Miller was first "theory"
instructor at MSH TS from
1910 to 1

(note by Sylvia Perkins)



Knocke-sur-Mer Sentier chez Oscar.



UNX

Carte Postale

Adresse

Miss Parsons
Superintendent of the
Training School
for Nurses
Massachusetts General
Hospital
Boston
U. S. A. Mass.

Le 3 aut. 20 - 12 - 20.

Correspondance

With kindest thoughts
and best wishes for a
very merry Christmas and a
happy new year to Miss
Parsons and all the nurses
we met in the hospital
during our stay there.



We are very anxious to do
and have a big work to do
with Public Health and visiting nurses

the two Belgian nurses
which have not forgotten you
kindness to them!
Madeline Dana
J. Jacobs

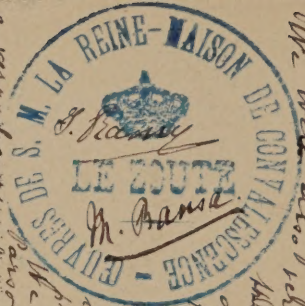
Edition Jacobs-Vermotte, 267, avenue Libyens, Knocke





Miss Sara E. Parsons
 P. O. Box 79
 Oxford (Mass)
 U. S. A.

de Roche, December 8 - 1921
 Dear Miss Parsons, your nice letter
 from last October, enjoyed us very much.
 We were glad to hear that the little
 group arrived safely, and made you believe
 we were also very astonished to hear



a very interesting letter from the King and Queen of the Netherlands, who are now in the Netherlands.

What you see no more
 at the house. You thought
 there we are always working
 being in the morning.
 While the winter days
 our Government many
 important change in the
 program of building roads
 We wish to you, after this

13 Colosseum Terrace
Regents Park

London -

N. W.

CHRIST CHURCH VICARAGE,

BATTERSEA, S.W.

16. 12. 13

My dear Miss Parsons.

My love & best
wishes to you for a
happy Christmas. I am
thankful to record a safe
voyage, but 2 days
late, owing to bad wea-
ther & a cautious Dutch
Captain! We anchored
Dec. 7. but did not
land until the fol-
lowing day -

How surprised you will
be to see in the
British Journal of
Nursing for this week
the reproduction of a
beautiful photograph
of the monument in
memory of the Nurses
who nursed the soldiers
in the civil war -
from the State House.
I have not time
now to tell you how

I got it, but I will
one day -

I have just come to
spend 2 nights at
my brother-in-law's
house, as they want
to hear all about
my experiences!

The memory of all
your kindness is
one of my happy
memories of my
American friends.

Yours affec^{tly}
Beatrice Kent

My kindest regards to all we
know at the Hospital

Dear Miss Parsons:

I'm going to tell you something about the people
with whom I am working ~~now~~ and in whom, I am extremely
interested. Mlle. De Rne, a descendant of Jeanne
D'Arc's family, 12 yrs ago, gave up her beautiful
home, her social position, ~~and her family~~ and went to
live among the poor in a quarter of Paris.
When there was much danger for young girls
it was a quarter of a century up to fifteen years
ago. Then had her parents, and when the
sisters had been very close to the family, then ^{before}
the explosion came. - Mlle de Rne thought she
could do something to the people & the sister
had been. - She lived and still lives very singly.
To her cause, about 5 yrs ago, an American woman
Mrs. G. who has been ^{been} in America,
now in France. American parents, she seems

very the American. - There is now "poor" their money.
and it is quite wonderful what they are able to do.
mm it - This work has grown, so that now

mm it - This work has grown, so that now
they have not only a home for working girls, a
patronage for 250 families, in Paris, but extend
the city, agricultural schools, *Sauteraine* &
in the *Ynges*, *agicultural* schools. *Sauteraine* &
France *exphave*

in the ~~engels~~,
or pharangs, and in the north of France, or pharangs,
and homes for the nations and children of the
North. — I have been sent to them to help

There is no more a Childrens Dispensary. - The an
opening is. The day before your years with a
Christmas tree. - This latter plan came

And this may. — There is no place for
Charters at the Parliament, neither at the

where the sister in charge said
they had been done for Christmas during the
winter.

Mr. — I heartily asked him if a lot
of Christmas frolics truly he appreciated
and a broad happy smile came into his face

Could the children have something bright "the saved."
at the Patriotic. I found there was to be
nothing for the mothers either, - so I conceived the
idea of opening the Dispensary that day - a
tree was donated by Dr. Cabot - food by
the Red Cross - Toys by several different
individuals - I've visited 250 children, the
four sisters at the Asylum, the Quaker
people, the district nurses - The children are
going to sing and we are giving them hot
chocolate and sandwiches. Each child by the
way brings his or her own cup and saucer & spoon.
It's removing and hides it gives them more
of a real part in the show.

The district nurses were to work with us. (27
them) I am called the Patriotic Health Visitor.
Besides the clinics for the children we are

going to have evening clinics for the working
girls. — It is all very interesting.

I wish Miss Richer would come up for a
little visit. — I'm not living in the little
house, after all. — It was fun getting it
ready. But it was decided that a French
woman had better live there, and carry on
the work when we were gone. But
Dr. C. objected very strongly to my leaving
them.

We are all well except for colds and
Laurel has the kind to us.

Affectionately yours.

Louise Bryer

Dec. 28/17

? written to SEP

Extract from Letter of Reconstruction Aide.

The work has been so absorbingly and compellingly human. It would be stupid to say that it had far the widest vision of anything I have ever done, but of course that must be so with everyone who has come in touch with all that the war has brought forth of sordid ugliness and spiritual beauty, primitive brutality and unselfish tenderness, but above all, the chivalry and high faith and young silent heroism and idealism of the enlisted man. As a revelation of what was hidden awkwardly beneath the carelessness of the youth of America. I feel it has all been worth while - even the suffering and desolation and unhappiness, for we had nearly lost what alone could make for real happiness, and now if we can only hold the vision we have had and keep it clean and fine and vitalizing as a factor in the re-birth of the nation! That seems to me a worse danger far today than any which confronts us - the possible reaction, in which case we shall have lost the War in all its deeper significance, and the sacrifice would have been in vain, and the lesson unheeded and unlearned by a mad world - and with the unthinking madness which only destroys - a sort of soul Bolshovism.

Whatever the future holds, or whatever the price, I would not give up a week of all that these months have meant, and they will always remain an inspiration. Now I am hoping, queerly enough, since I personally do not want to go, that I may be sent to Germany, and try to live up to what I have seen. Germany seems to call for the kind of people with strong convictions and a certain faith, and on those qualities, I feel as if I could be trusted and were old

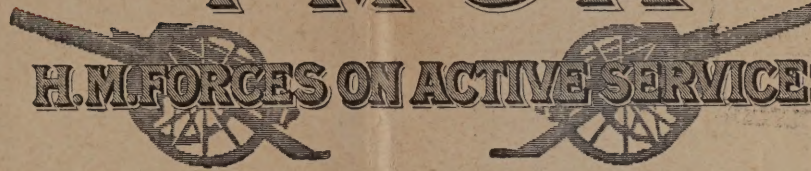
enough to keep my head, and perhaps just now they may counteract for this situation, a few of my many deficiencies. I hope so, for I want to go while there is anything to do.

For God, For King & For Country



PATRON
Y.M.C.A. NATIONAL COUNCIL.
H.M. THE KING.

Y.M.C.A.



PATRON
MILITARY CAMP DEPT.
H.R.H. DUKE OF CONNAUGHT

Reply to _____ Company _____ Bat. _____ Regt. _____

Stationed at Y M C A Hut -

Fulham Military Hospital
Hammersmith -
London.

Oct. 30th 1916

My dear Miss Parsons.

What must you think of me, except to say that you consider me a most ungrateful & unappreciative person but indeed, I am not quite so bad as I must appear in your eyes, for many & many a time have I sat down & tried to write to you & many & many a time my efforts have been frustrated.

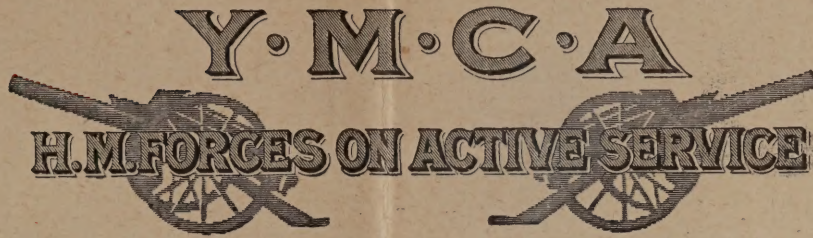
I was more than delighted to receive your book & much enjoyed it, & entirely agree with the ideas expressed in it.

It should be of great help to nurses, both during & after training, & I should like to tell you that page 45 has been very helpful to me, & I thank you for it —

For God, For King & For Country



PATRON
Y.M.C.A. NATIONAL COUNCIL.
H.M. THE KING.



PATRON
MILITARY CAMP DEPT.
H.R.H. DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

Reply to _____ Company _____ Bat. _____ Regt. _____

Stationed at _____

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Some day, when Mr. Kent & I have the pleasure of welcoming you to England, we will discuss & talk over your book together.

My work in the Hut has completely absorbed me during the last few months, & I have only had a week's holiday since I left America.

I fear I shall have to take one soon, or I shall break down altogether, but it is very difficult to find a substitute to replace me.

Everyone who can do work, can get work, & only incapables seem available.

I went home for one night last Saturday & enjoyed an evening by my own fireside, & gazed fondly at my Toleen Pole!

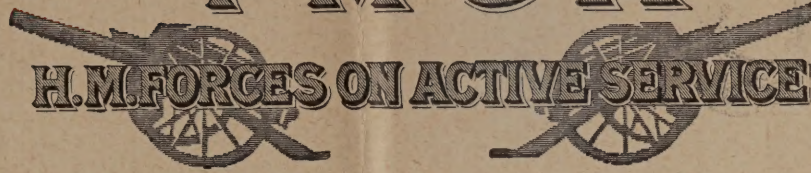
It is quite impossible to realize that it is only a year since we spent that happy week with you at Boston!

For God, For King & For Country



PATRON
Y.M.C.A. NATIONAL COUNCIL.
H.M. THE KING.

Y.M.C.A.



PATRON
MILITARY CAMP DEPT.
H.R.H. DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

Reply to _____ Company _____ Bat. _____ Regt. _____

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I wonder so often how the Americans are feeling in regard to the war?

Among my daily staff of lady workers, I have two delightful Americans from Chicago.

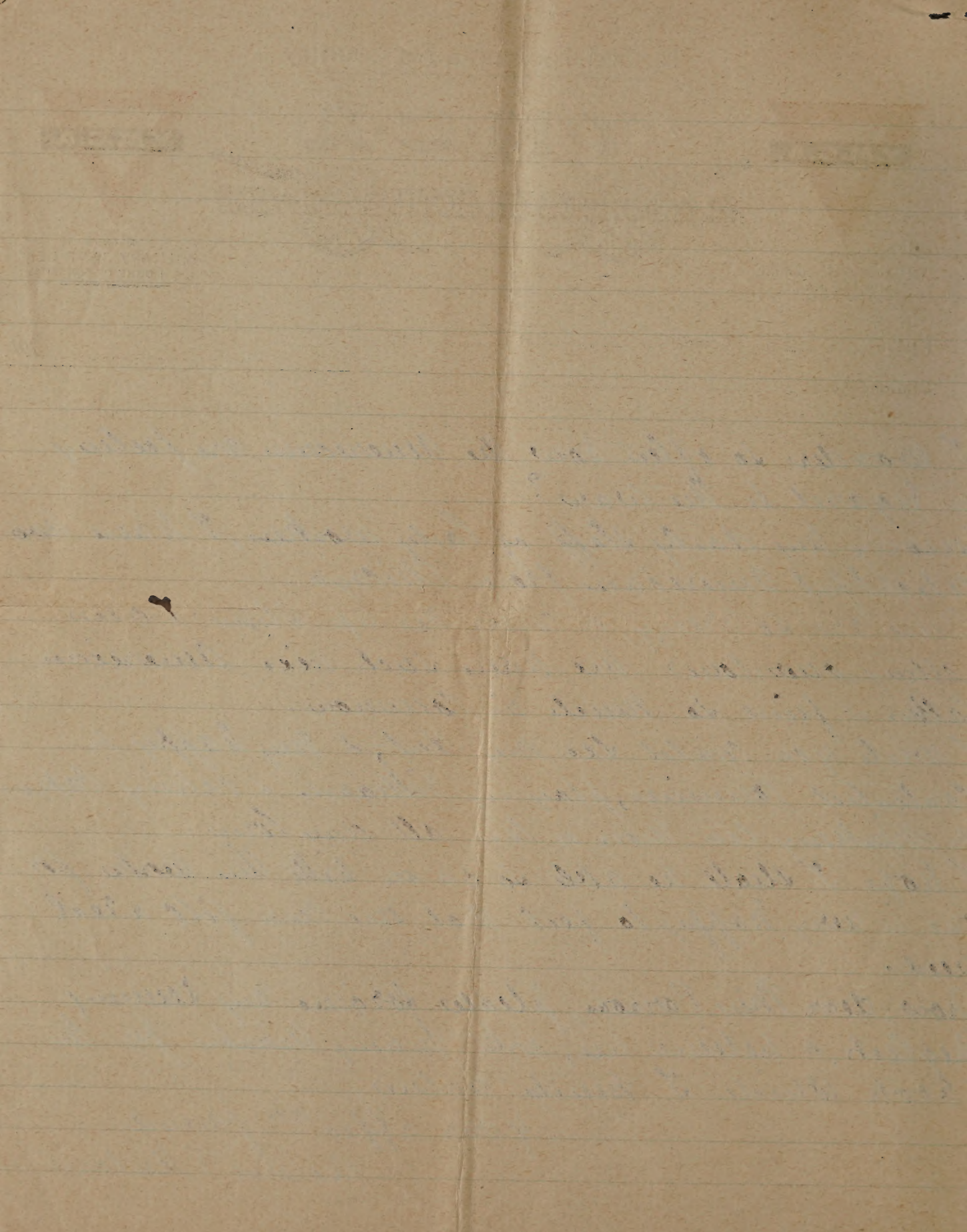
They are so breezy, & cheer me up when I am getting overdone. We have such nice American talks, & find so much in common.

I wish you could see my Hal, & my happy & contented Tommy, playing billiards & eating cakes & drinking tea now or then all day long.

I hope I shall be able to go on with this work for one is very happy to feel that one can fill a real need.

Now, dear Miss Parrow, please forgive my seeming neglect, & believe me, with many thanks for the book which I much value.

Your affectionate friend
Anne S. Hulme.



Berlin-Lichterfelde ,Unter den Eichen 128.
15. Januar 1915.

My dear Miss Parsons,

Many thanks for your most welcome card. It gave me such a great pleasure, that I will immediately answer it by some lines.

Already 1909 at the Women's Congress in Toronto we felt the hostility against the German members and remarked, that ~~suggested~~ by suggestion of the British Press the English ladies took every German as an "ennemy". At an official luncheon in Victoria (British Columbia) the Governor spook about "Edward, the peacemaker" and from the side of the Congress a ~~Belgium~~ (!) lady had to answer. We took this choice as an attempt, to avoid an offence of the French ladies on one side and of the Germans on the other side. But now, as the documents of the secret entente between Belgium and Great-Britain from 1906, the war-plan etc. are found, we know, that strange choice had a political character. When we came back to Toronto, there was an exhibition under the protection of Lord Beresford (at that time First Sea-Lord of the British Navy).; and there was a diorama, which performed "The victory of the British fleet over a no t h e r fleet in the N o r t h -S e a " a ~~strange~~^r illustration to the toast : "Edward, the peacemaker". in Victoria. This experience agrees very much with all the terrible lies, the British Press spreads about the Germans, especially the German army during this war. You know Germany too well, to believe such nonsense, and I dare say, I am too proud to defense my countrymen against such ~~ex~~ low calumnies; they fall back to the defamer. But I wished, you could see our people now during this dreadfull unintended war. I think the German nation has never shown before, even not in the Befreiungskrieg 1813/15, such a grandness as it deploys now. My only sorrow is, that

I myself am nomore able to help by sur^gical assistance in the Feld=
Lazarette. Last spring I had a new attack of tuberculosis, which has
not yet healed perfectly; besides that, my heart is not quite "in or=
der".

I think still often of the nice time, we spend with you in Boston
and of all your kindness towards us, and of poor Dr. Moores whom I
have never seen again.

Hoping that these lines will meet you in goed health
with much love also from my friend Miss Hacker

Yours very sincerely

Agnes Blum.

Deutsche Übersetzung.

Meine liebe Miss Parsons.

Vielen Dank für Ihre sehr willkommenen Karte. Sie hat mir eine so grosse Freude bereitet, dass ich sie sofort mit einigen Zeilen beantworten will.

Schon 1909 auf dem Frauen-Kongress in Toronto empfanden wir die Feindseligkeit gegen die Deutschen Mitglieder, und bemerkten, dass infolge der Suggestion der Britischen Presse die Englischen Damen jeden Deutschen als einen "Feind" ansahen. Auf einem offiziellen Frühstück in Victoria (Britisch Columbia) sprach der Gouverneur über "Eduard, den Friedensstifter" und von seiten des Kongresses musste eine Belgische Dame (!) antworten. Wir fassten damals diese Wahl als einen Versuch auf, eine Beleidigung der Französinen einerseits und der Deutschen andererseits zu vermeiden. Jetzt, nachdem die Dokumente über das geheime Abkommen zwischen Belgien und Gross-Britanien von 1906, der Kriegsplan u.s.w. gefunden worden sind, wissen wir, dass jene befremdliche Wahl einen politischen Charakter hatte. Als wir nach Toronto zurückkamen, war dort eine Ausstellung unter dem Protektorat des Lord Beresford (dem damaligen Ersten Seelord der Britischen Flotte) und dort gab es ein Diorama, welches den "Sieg der Britischen Flotte über eine andere Flotte in der Nordsee" darstellte, eine merkwürdige Illustration zu dem Toast: "Eduard, der Friedensstifter". Diese Erfahrung stimmt sehr gut zu den schrecklichen Lügen, welche die Britische Presse über die Deutschen, insbesondere die Deutsche Armee verbreitet während dieses Krieges. Sie kennen Deutschland zu gut, um dergleichen Unsinn zu glauben, und ich bekenne, ich bin zu stolz, um meine Landsleute gegen solche Verleumdungen zu verteidigen; sie fallen auf den Verleumder zurück. Aber ich wünschte, Sie könnten unser Volk jetzt während dieses schrecklichen ungewollten Krieges sehen. Ich glaube, die Deutsche Nation hat nie zuvor, selbst nicht in den Befreiungskriegen 1813/15, eine

solche Grösse gezeigt, wie sie jetzt entfaltet. Mein einziger Kummer ist, dass ich nicht mehr fähig bin, als chirurgischer Assistent in den Feldlazaretten zu helfen. Letztes Frühjahr habe ich eine neue Attacke von Tuberkulose gehabt, die noch nicht ganz ausgeheilt ist; ausserdem ist mein Herz nicht ganz in Ordnung.

Ich denke noch oft an die schöne Zeit, die wir mit Ihnen in Boston verlebten und an all Ihre Freundlichkeit gegen uns; auch an die arme Dr. Moores die ich nie wieder gesehen habe.

In der Hoffnung, dass diese Zeilen Sie in guter Gesundheit antreffen, mit vielen Grüssen auch von meiner Freundin, Fräul. Hacker

Ihre aufrichtigst ergebene

Dr. Agnes Blum. Berlin-Lichte

Verenigte Staten von Nord-Amer

Miss Sara E. P a r s o n s .

S. N. I. S.

Massachusetts General Hospital

Boston. (Mass.)

This letter was written by
the surgeon who operated
on me when I was in Germany
in 1904. She was a very
fine woman and
very good and
generous to me.
She has been
visited the
M. G. H.
before the
World War -
S. E. P.

Geatlich Recurster



12, Colosseum Terrace,

Regents Park,

London N.W.

England

June 8

My dear Miss Parsons -

I was so pleased to
get your letter the other day,
so glad to hear you liked
the little Article I wrote about
the Massachusetts General.
How could I help saying
nice things about it! and
the kind people we met
there, chiefly yourself to whom
we were indebted for that
most enjoyable work. I

did not say half what
I felt. I hope you have

The enclosed cutting will answer you!
I think the Kaiser is mad.

also saw my brief account
of the Peter Bush Brigham
Hospital - also Miss Hall.

I think I told you I would
one day tell you how I
got that beautiful photo-
graph of the Monument
in the State House - I
tried while in Boston to
obtain a picture P. C. of it
& failed. The day we left
we arrived at the station
a good hour before the
train left, so we strolled
into the Library again -
& I got into conversation
with the chief librarian.

I forget his name now,
but he was a most amia-
ble gentleman! I told him I
was most anxious to
obtain a photograph of
the monument - he told
me he knew a lady photo-
grapher who - he believed had
taken it, she would try to
get me one. At his request
I left my address in New
York, in a very short
time I received a beautiful
large - sized photograph!
much larger than what
you saw in the Journal
(it was reduced for that.)
I wrote my thanks & asked
the price, but I was not
allowed to pay for it!
another act of kindness from
our ^{the} kind American people.

I sent a copy of the Journal
containing the photograph to
the Librarian & to the Lady -
I am glad your National
League for Nursing Education
has made such a wise choice
as to elect you to succeed
Miss Hayes - How I wish
I could have been at the
Convention at New Orleans -
If it was anything like the
one at San Francisco it
must have been splendid -
It is kind of you ^{to} sympathize
with us in our Nation's
terrible calamity. ^{The war} Just now
before this reaches you, you
will have read of the
awful naval battle; a
complete victory for us
although Germany - with
her usual his-is claiming
it! The sorrow of it is the

the lovely time we had on the American
Continent. I sincerely hope we shall meet you at
some future date.

2
terrible loss of precious
lives. Almost immediately
following this, is the loss
of the Hampshire with 600
lives including that of our
greatest soldier - Lord Kitchener,
this entire staff. At
the moment of writing we
have no details, only re-
mours, which are that
one man has been saved.
We seem to have reached
the very acme of our Na-
tion's sorrow. However, al-
though England is bleeding
afast, it is not to death,
but slowly & surely to vic-
tory. England is stunned
by the death of Lord Kit-
chener; it will be difficult
to replace him. I should
not be at all surprised

This time last year we were in New York. We so often speak of

I hear that a bomb~~st~~
was placed on board
by some German fiend -
I have been very busy
lately lecturing to Nurses
in different parts of
England, on State Re-
gistration and this new
lay Institution! The College
of Nursing Co. Limited!
It is an established thing,
but no Nurse is obliged
to join it, & my purpose
is to prevent their doing so.
You may have read my
brief accounts of my visits.
The Nurses require to have
their eyes opened to the
danger & impertinence of
it - With affectionate regards
I remain

Yrs very sincerely
Beatrice Kent

57, ALBANY STREET,

REGENTS PARK, N.W.

Dec 16th -

My dear Miss Parsons.

I believe that Miss Kent-
wrote to you on board
our ship, the "Ryndam" so
I shall not attempt to
describe our crossing the
Atlantic because you will
have had a graphic
picture from her of our
proceedings -

the sense of the roses will hang round it still,
Please give my kindest regards to Miss Hall
When I have read it from
even to even, I will write
again still you know I shall
have read, marked, & learn-
ed, & inwardly digested it.
At present I have only dig-
ested into it. The reading of it,
from such an Authority as
yourself, will be instructive.
Miss Hulme is also delighted
you will of course hear from
me too.

We all escaped any injury
from the great Zeppelin
raid of Sunday Sep 2.

Thank God, but we are in - in
a measure - in it.

work of the censor
S. E. P.

I tell her I have taken very good care of her fine hospital

the room is very nice

the room is very nice

all up of course, & almost all of us put on
dressing-gowns & slippers &
went down stairs, most of
us out into the street!

we gazed at the
wonderful sight - some of
us hit, & burst into
a fall to the ground.
wonderful sight. I am glad

I did not see that, because, as 16
living men were in it! — well
I need say no more — an awful
death to die. A young aviator of
only 21 fired the shots which
brought it down, & has got
the V.C. I think we may expect
many more of such raids.
The Germans are getting the
worst of it everywhere on land
& sea, so they will certainly
take revenge by means of their
Zepp raids — We are of course
glad that the Rumanians
have joined the Allies, & it seems
more than probable that the
Greeks will have done the
same before this reaches you.
It will all shorten this awful
war. How are you dear Miss
Parsons? I often think of that de-

Ulrikasborgsgatan 1.
Helsingfors. Finland.

My dear Miss Parsons,

I wish you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
and enclose a little, humble
Christmas-gift, a Finnish
hand-work.

We still hope that Miss
Eklund will be able to take
the course at the Teachers
College and come here to
Sweden. Sometimes she and her
sister write to me and

it is very interesting to
hear a little from the
nursing-world in Boston.

Kind regards to Miss
M. Crae and Miss Miller,
I often remember their
good lectures and practical
teaching.

Yours truly

Ellen Nylander.

Miss M^{rs} Estlin

1. Ulrikshborgsgatan
Helsingfors.
Finland.

Dear Miss Tarsons,
I am now home in
Finland again, and my
american stay is only
a memory, but one of
my dearest memories,
one which will be
very helpful to me in
many ways. Thank you
very, very much for all
that I saw and enjoyed
in Boston. I am so glad
that I had this opportunity

and shall never forget
your kindness. I had
great pleasure in reading:
"The Organization of
Modern Training School
for Nurses" and "The
Case Method of Teaching
Nursing" and I feel very
thankful for all the
suggestions I get from
these books and from
your hospital.

Our Superintendent
Baroness Mannerheim
would be very glad if
Miss Eklund would take
the course at Teachers
College and then come

here and help us. We
are very anxious to
hear what she decides.

I had such a lovely
journey, the finest
weather one could wish,
and very interesting
fellow travellers.

I should be very
glad if I in my turn
could do anything for
you or some of your
friends, and I dream
of meeting you some
day again.

My kindest regards
to you Miss Mc Crae
and Miss Miller.

Yours affectionately
Ellen Nylander.

57 Albany Street
Regents Park
London
May 18th

My dear Miss Parsons.

I have just been reading the sweet little poem of welcome that Miss Keble & I were greeted with when we visited you at Boston, & I am also looking at my Totem pole with admiring eyes whilst I write these lines.

By the time they reach you, it will be a year since we started on our "never to be forgotten" journey to San Francisco, & if I were a free agent with money to spend, I would like to start off again & repeat every day of that delightful time. I hope the world has been going well with you since we last had news of you, - I also hope that you still think of visiting Old England & that we may have the pleasure of welcoming you here before another year goes by.

I am taking up some definite war work next week, but it will not take me out of London. Since my return from America I have had a varied experience in the management of
Y M C A Centre & Halls

[The page contains faint, illegible handwriting.]

I am now going to take over the entire charge of
a Recreation Klub & Club for Convalescent Soldiers in
the grounds of a Military Hospital in London.
I love the work, & by remaining in town I can
keep in touch with all my Secretarial duties
as Hon Sec to the Nations' Council.

Miss Kent is on a tour in the North of England
lecturing on State Regulation & trying to rouse
our Nurses as to the necessity of Legal Status &
warning them of the dangers of the "Voluntary
College of Nursing" that is being foisted on us
& which intend giving certificates of sorts to all
women connected with Nursing! "But - imagine it!"
I wish, oh how I wish, that some of the dear
American Superintendents - we met last year
would come over & talk to our "stick in
the mud" English Matrons & Nurses!

This is treason, but our women are so afraid of
their Committees that they dare not have opinions
of their own!

I am sure you will have felt for us & for Loyal
Ireland in this last terrible Crisis!

The War seems very far from hearing to an end
& your country has its difficulties as well
as ours & we sympathize with you!

I am sure you will find it a very
 interesting and useful volume.
 I have been much interested in
 the history of the American
 people, and this book is a
 very valuable addition to my
 collection. I have been much
 interested in the history of the
 American people, and this book
 is a very valuable addition to
 my collection. I have been much
 interested in the history of the
 American people, and this book
 is a very valuable addition to
 my collection.

Now I must close this lengthy scribble
but I felt I must just tell you how much I
wish we could meet & have a cozy chat over
our happy times together last year.
Believe me

dear Miss Parsons
Yours affectionately
Auntie E. Hulme

Now, I must close this letter for now
and I will I must find out how much
will be costed and I have a copy of the
one happy thing together that you
to share in

Love from
of your office
Lillian & Helen

18 Rue Cirque
Paris

Dear Miss Parsons

I am settled here for such time as Dr Washburn does not need me at B., attached meantime to the Red Cross in the Dept. of Refugees - my job to establish small units - a doctor a one or two nurses - in towns & cities that need work among refugees & other civilians. I have already been to Evian on the Swiss frontier where the folk from invaded districts are being sent back thro Switzerland because they are useless to Germany - 1500 a day! Miss Lovejoy will probably go there tomorrow. I have also been to St Etienne - the Pittsburgh of France - where our entering wedge is thro the "gouttes de lait" or milk stations which ^{the local folk} they want as to run - Now mothers see the children (no doctors ~~at~~ available) & no nurses visit the home.

I asked the Powers that Be today to release either Dr Wade Wright or Dr Zinger and Miss Cormier & Miss Reilly. French is essential & I am writing this now to ask you to get Miss Reilly as busy as possible on her French. Tell her to think out a list of things she would want to ask in visiting the homes of children coming to milk stations.

- and the answers that mother & the children might make &
then to get the French from Miss Cormier & learn it

I asked for Miss Kelly because of her experience with
children & skin diseases & visiting nursing But she must have
more French & that is why I am writing you now

Now I may be refused - so all concerned
must be prepared for disappointment But I think it will go there
It may take 2 or 3 weeks.

I shall ask next for Miss ^{Unless} Miss Field and
Miss Eastman & Miss Barton. If you think possible
disappointment makes it inadvisable I should like these 3
asked to peg away hard at French.

One other request :-

My gold watch was left for mending at Pujol's
shop no 4 Rue Michel Montaigne near the Fair Grounds
Would you be so very kind as to get some one who is shopping to
find out the price to borrow the money from Dr Wright &
pay for the watch & send it by mail to the above address with
a statement of cost so that I can repay Dr Wright

None of this letter is secret unless by your best judgement

Affectionately your old friend

Lillian C. Cobb

in Paris have. Could you
prevail upon Miss Russell to
open her heart sufficiently
to send us each one? We are
perfectly honest in saying
that we really need them
here, and that right quickly.
Since talking with the other
people, and comparing notes we
decided unanimously that we
have come from a very pleas-
ant place, namely Base #6.

Will you please see that
our letters are forwarded to
the above address - other
than beautiful excitement
there will be no apparent
recreation here - letters will
be a wonderful link with
the outer world.

Wm & Rodger Very sincerely,

Frances A. Mott

Olga Olsen
12 children

(Address) Evacuation Hospital #1.
George Washington Birthday, A. E. F.
7:20 p.m. France.

Dear Miss Parsons -

Here we are
safe and sound, clustered round
an oil stove, our little wood-
stove refusing to burn, as of yore,
our windows are shrouded in
dark-blue M.O. blankets,
and in the distance there
is, above the sound of the wind,
a suggestive rumble. We
are getting all the thrills and
more than either you or we had
anticipated - we are making
history. Do you know that
we and four No. 8 nurses are
the very first A.E.F. nurses
thus far north? We have

sworn a solemn oath to
try to the best of our ability
to live up to our ideals and
our training.

We spent the night at the
Hotel Petrograd. After settling
down a bit, we called on Miss
Riley and the others, and
after going into ecstasies, as
per usual, over us, Peggy
exclaimed "Gee, and not
a lemon in the bunch!"

The entirely "maulless" we
had not the slightest
trouble with our baggage;
everyone was very nice to us.
We arrived here at 3:45, and
were met at the station, very
cordially, by a lieutenant

and three men, two ambulances,
and a limousine!

Our quarters are very comfortable,
we go on duty tomorrow, and
the work that's waiting is that
which we all have hoped
against hope to do, but never
really believed would fall to
our lot.

It's raining and very muddy,
and the cold is as the south
of France + so we are
thankful of the warm clothing
we brought. We look with
longing eyes at the splendid
trench coats which the Red
Cross in Paris have furnished
the nurses who are already
here - that is, their whole
unit has them and which,
by the way, our nurses

U. S. Base Hospital No. 6
Amer. Ex. Force, France
August 24, 1918.

Dear Mrs. Thayer:-

I hope you received the cable I sent you recently and that I was right in assuming you were the inquirer concerning one of our officers.

We now have five or six times as many patients as you have at the M.G.H. and certainly not more than half as many nurses. Of course that isn't enough and we are hoping for more, as orderlies are also very scarce and as to maids we only have six to help on the wards. If it were not for the work of the patients, we should be in a very bad way. It is hard to ask them to work as soon as they can use an arm after they come in but it is necessary.

With the stimulus! of continual inspections, criticisms etc. on the part of the C.O., and others, we have been able thus far (thanks to Col. Washburn's foresight in installing hot water and some necessary equipment) to keep up a very creditable European M.G.H. A visitor said recently she hadn't seen anything so perfectly clean and orderly since she last visited the M.G.H.

The work is very interesting--often heart rending--but very worth while, so long as we can keep our patients contented. It is wonderful what so few nurses can do when they get accustomed to the routine and are not disturbed by clinics, lessons, classes, visiting hours, etc., etc. The nurses whom we brought over have justified all the educational efforts we expended on them in the M.G.H., and have been a great credit to us and themselves wherever they have been placed, with one exception and that nurse is now back in the states. Sixteen of our original number are at the front or on hospital train service, and the rest of us are in the minority--that is also true of the doctors.

I have now had a splendid chance to compare our own nurses with those from Chicago Presbyterian and various other schools large and small. Those from Chic. Pres. are splendid. Fine women and well trained, some of the others are also, but think all the doctors would agree that there are few who equal ours in skill, ability, adaptability, pluck and loyalty. Situated as we are now the nurses are more like house officers as regards their duties and responsibilities. I wish you could hear the delightful things the patients say about them and their kindness, and see in how many ways the nurses contrive to give the patients pleasure. It all comes back to us in a thousand ways, mothers have written letters to the nurses and when patients have had to "go west" the nurses have sent messages to their home people, photos of the last resting place and such little comfort as can be given under such circumstances.

From Colonels to privates we find the patients pitching in to help the nurses out--many of the officers will make their beds, carry trays and do everything possible to show their appreciation of what is done for them. We have reason to be proud of most of our American men over here--they are mostly very brave, merry, and anxious to go back to finish the Boche.

Aug 24

It is incredible that they have seen what they have seen, and done what they have done--many of them are mere boys (I am afraid many have lied about their ages) with innocent, childlike faces. They are keen about ice-cream, chocolate, gum, illustrated papers, joke books and parties. We gave them a lawn party last night with entertainment by members of the Unit and a vaudeville team which Mrs. Vincent Astor secured for us, this was followed by doughnuts and good fruit punch made by our enlisted men and served by the nurses. The evening was perfect and the patients came in wheel chairs, on crutches and any way they could manage to get out. They loved it and the \$75.00 it cost was well spent for they need mental diversion more than medicine many times. Just what a strain they have been under we can realize when some of the most normal soldiers cry out in their sleep about gas attacks, bayonet charges, and hand to hand struggles with the Germans. Going under ether they almost always live over some of the horrors they have endured. Many of the men lose all they possess--the gassed cases have to throw away their clothes and there have been hundreds of men who for no fault of their own have failed to receive pay for several months. The Red Cross doesn't undertake to advance money under these conditions as the contract would be too extensive and it has been pitiful to see men needing shaves and haircuts, tooth brushes, tooth paste and such necessities, say nothing of little indulgencies in candies etc., obliged to do without because they had no money. They will joke about it, but it is hard nevertheless.

The Aids and some other friends gave me some money to spend for the soldiers when I came over and at first I hardly knew where to turn or what to do since our men have been coming back from the front, because there were so many of them who needed things, so finally I settled for my special interest on the eye ward when we had two boys entirely blind from machine gun explosions--many had lost one eye and others had very sore eyes. They seemed more depressed and not being able to read had a harder time diverting themselves. Lots of them hadn't any money so I gave them each two francs one day, which they accepted when they found it was from a fund entrusted to me for soldiers, and such a clearing up as they had with that little money. Fruit is easily procured but very expensive and nothing is more enjoyed by the sicker patients so it has been delightful to have some money to spend in these ways. The fund Major (excuse me) Col. Washburn had and turned over to Major Cabot has been vastly useful in larger ways and in greater emergencies. If any of the Ladies' Training School Committees are interested in making it possible for me to help out in small ways, some of these brave boys, I shall be glad to receive any contributions they may choose to send.

If you think this letter would interest the committee please let such parts of it as you think best be read at one of the meetings. I often think of you all and wish I might come in for one of the monthly conferences. I am much pleased to hear what has been done for the school since I left and am still hoping that somehow the endowment fund will materialize. I am so happy that you have Miss Wood at the helm--no one could be better and few so good. If I have not tired you completely out you will be interested to know that Miss Maxwell is staying with me tonight en route for N.Y., after a very interesting 2 months visiting hospitals over here. I have enjoyed her experiences through her eyes and find it hard not to envy her the opportunities she has to see things on a large scale.

I must close now although there are still many things I should like to tell you about. I hope your arduous public duties have not made you ill and please give my very best regards to the ladies on the committee.

Faithfully yours,

Signed: SARAH E. PARSONS

AMERICAN RED CROSS

CROIX ROUGE AMÉRICAINE



12/2/18

U. S. Hospital Train #35
American Expeditionary
Force, France

Dear Miss Larsons;

Your letter dated
Aug. 17th, just came to hand last
week, so you can see how promptly
we receive our mail. Nevertheless
with the hopes that those out are
having better success in reaching
their destination, I am going
to tell you of an interesting trip
we have just made.

While at dinner on Thursday
day we received word that we were
to make preparations to go to Switzer-
land, to bring back our wounded
prisoners. Because the French
and Swiss authorities failed to agree
on the subject, our train only
could take us to Bellegarde, a town
within fifty-two kilometres of the
Swiss border, for which we were warmly

disappointed, but we did get our
prisoners - our first to return from
Germany - 225 officers and twenty
~~two~~ men, who had acted as their
orderlies. A splendid lot of boys
too.

Among them was Lieut Wood whom
I think you must remember, a
young aviator, who had been at our
hospital with an injured foot, and
used to come to our dances with a
cane, aided so - well, I do not
remember his name, but his name
was Stevens, a naval aviator, whose
camp you visited at one time with
Bobby & Miss Lee.

We were prepared to give them
soups, gruels etc, expecting to find
them thin, starved and emaciated,
needing a great deal of care in fact
anything but the healthy looking
individuals which awaited us. But
this was all attributed to the receipt
of a box, almost regularly received
from the Red Cross, for which they were
grateful and warm in the praise of
said organization.



We also carried clothing to fully equip them, all of which had been done ten days previous by the Red Cross. Every city in Switzerland through which they passed, such as Berne, Zurich, Lucerne, Geneva, they were received with warm demonstrations from the Americans and American sympathizers, and as additional welcome, generous contributions of meals, boxes containing crackers, and in fact, luxuries such as we had not seen over here.

All this was warmly received with noisy enthusiasm on their part, I should judge by the look of faces. This settled by questioning whether or not they had been gassed.

It was most interesting to talk with them and hear the varied experiences in some instances, their unsuccessful attempts at escape etc.

Their feeling towards the Germans is very bitter, but if the rest of our men have fared no worse,

There is no reason to be grateful.

From the French train, three came into ours at midnight today, but here an unprecedented thing occurred the reason for which we have yet to learn, unless it was in order that the Mayor of said town with other celebrities and six demoiselles could give them a champagne party. We missed that, because we wanted to take the opportunity of seeing the town which has many points of interest as well as beauty.

We arrived at Allier, a large base hospital centre, where, after some hours wait due to the non-arrival of our baggage announcing our coming, they were detained, all wondering the women's question, "when would they be going home" and leaving us, making the trip might be longer, and so giving us the chance of visiting many there all personally.

Though we did not get to Simpson land, ~~meant~~ how the French help in going to Billgard during the

AMERICAN RED CROSS

CROIX ROUGE AMÉRICAINE



daylight hours, and though it was raining and consequently ~~dirty~~ it did not prevent us from getting a good view of the most wonderful country it has been my good fortune of seeing.

The road over which we came, for the most part, was only wide enough for the railroad tracks, and on either side were these high hills, sometimes all cliff rugged and wild, then again, whole mountain sides covered with regular little plots of symmetrical form of vegetation, with here and there a tiny little stone house, & then a little farther on, a gallery near which would be a cluster of houses. Up all along the mountain side, would be these miniature falls.

I had a great time running from one side of the ~~green~~ to the other, so afraid that in the rushing in the ~~caul~~ ^{with} seen how one ~~midon~~, I could ~~there~~, from the other.

Then the ~~best~~ ^{best} ~~best~~ was ~~only~~ to, and the good fortune of staying

for the day, gave us the desired opportunity of visiting the various places of interest.

It was rather amusing to read of your finding it so hot there, when I can imagine you are having the same difficulty in one of trying to keep warm. The vary greatly because when we have our American engine, and going on are actually hot then again, though we have a little stove in our staff car, these cold mornings, it would seem as if it made but little impression.

We are keen to have just what is going to happen to us, of course you know what our hope is, when we have finished our service on the train. We have not heard a word from anyone at the Base since we visited you nor have we heard how some likes her change.

We still continue to miss her. It seems too bad that after your thoughtful consideration of sending friends, the army should so suddenly break it up but they



7
 we are learning not to make too
 strong ties in any one place.

Did you have a pleasant thanks-
 giving? I trust so, and that
 with the armistice, also came a
 lessening of the work on every
 one there. What are the rumors
 concerning the return of the unit?

Despite the interest and joy
 in my work, there are many
 reasons which make me long
 for ^{the} refugees home to come soon,
 but until then, I must be
 patient.

With that we might have another
 trip ^{for ourselves} and bring them to Bordeaux
 so that you would all have an
 opportunity of talking with them
 too, and then, we had also hoped
 you might visit our present home
 for which you seemed quite too
 busy to consider the other times.
 And now just very best regards
 from Min Stamborg and myself
 I am,
 Sincerely yours
 Clara M. Nixon

P.S. It is rather late in my letter
but I have just thought that this
may reach you in time to carry
my heartiest wishes for a very
happy Christmas to you all,
from your absent members
Clara M. H.

AMERICAN



ON ACTIVE SERVICE

WITH THE

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Dec 5 1918

Bellegarde, France

Dear Miss Parsons:-

Just a line to add to Miss Hyson's letter - written hurriedly as I find one of our men is going to Ess-sur-Tille to post letters and get our mail. Yes, for the first time we have gotten away from American troops and can't even post letters. Tho' we are garaged in a large place thru which the business of Switzerland is done.

Yours Thanksgiving

we have had a wonderful opportunity to see beautiful France and we have made the most of it. In a way we are being repaid for all the social life - church, parties, movies, lectures - that we have had to give up during the past four months.

This place is where the Valerine river empties into the Rhone, also where the famous porte du Rhone is. The river entirely disappearing for about three hundred

AMERICAN



ON ACTIVE SERVICE

WITH THE

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

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feet at a point just below the lower edge illustrated in the card and you can see the volume of water flowing over the dam.

Day before yesterday we took a train and went away up into the Alps (French) - words fail me to describe the grandeur of the mountains and gorges. Coming home at sunset

the Italian Alps, snow
covered, were the most
beautiful shades of
pink.

And to add to our
pleasure, yesterday
morning Miss Travis
train pull in beside
us - the staff cars are
opposite so near that
we can reach across
and she is having
all this wonderful
time with us. This
is the first time we
have seen her since

AMERICAN



ON ACTIVE SERVICE

WITH THE

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

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she left us.

Today we are all going to Lake Geniv - an all day trip - isn't it wonderful!

We are waiting for more prisoners but there is some delay. I wish you could have talked with some of the men on our last trip - they were wonderfully interesting.

I am inclosing some
paper cotton and bawdage
which I think are pretty
clean.

I also inclose some
pictures of Miss Fletcher's
grave - one for you to
send her sister.

A while ago when
on a run to Foul saw
Miss Coleman from the
City Hospital who wished
to be remembered to you.

When is Base 6 going
home? We expect the trains
to go out of service soon
and are anxiously awaiting
our fate. Sincerely yours Laura & Danton.

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Instructive District Nursing Association

561 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
BOSTON

TELEPHONE, BACK BAY 6470

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OFFICE HOUR, 8.30 TO 9.30 A. M.

January 6, 1921

Miss Sara E. Parsons,
Missouri State Nurses' Association,
St. Louis, Mo.

My dear Miss Parsons:

It gave me great pleasure to hear from you, and gave me such a warm feeling to have had you think about me and send me the most valuable clipping. Unfortunately for Boston, our papers did not quote the New York speech as the St. Louis one did. Lapses like this are sure to occur when one lives too long in New England!

Kansas City sounds most interesting, but I can not consider it for various reasons. One being that our Boston affairs are much too unsettled for me to plan to go away now. You will know how erupted they have been when I say that the business men, the other day, suggested an amalgamation of the Massachusetts General, Boston Dispensary, District Nursing, and Baby Hygiene!

Miss Crandall has not yet decided what to do but is seriously considering making a demonstration for the National Child Health Council (one of the recent National amalgamations!!) The State Department of Health of Massachusetts is very eager to get her and she has not yet positively turned that down. Both Miss Crandall and I have been earning \$4000 a year. The Council position is paying \$6,500 and probably any new and difficult piece of constructive work of that kind should pay \$5000. Miss Mary Lent is free, but I do not at all know that she would consider doing the Kansas City thing. A letter would reach her, c/o National Organization for Public Health Nursing, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City. I know that she wants to help the Hopkins people in their campaign, and I know that they want her to do that, but perhaps afterward she might come to Kansas City until the deed was done. You know she did an awfully good piece of work in Los Angeles, and a piece of work of similar nature to Kansas City.

With very many wishes for a Happy 1921, and affectionate remembrances from all of us, who miss you very much,

Sincerely yours,

Mary Beard



LITTLE, BROWN & COMPANY

Publishers

34 BEACON STREET, BOSTON

EDITORIAL
DEPARTMENT

February 17th, 1922

Miss Sara E. Parsons,
Massachusetts General Hospital,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Madam:-

In response to your letter of the 16th, we are perfectly willing to have you make extracts from Miss Von Olnhauser's book "Adventures of an Army Nurse in Two Wars," and use the picture also.

Although the book is now out of print, we should like to have you give us proper credit as its publishers.

Yours very truly,

Little, Brown & Company

M



ŒUVRES DE S. M. LA REINE

MAISON DE CONVALESCENCE

ZOUTE (KNOCKE-SUR-MER)



Le Zoute, 26 Septembre 1921.

My dear Miss Parsons,

As we were, last year, in your hospitalier country, we spend a few days in your beautiful Hospital. You have received us so cordially, that we'll never forget your kindness to the two Belgian nurses! Before leaving, we promised to you, a little spoon of Belgium, for your collection. We have not forget our promise and have the great pleasure to send you a spoon from "Bruges". We hope you'll receive it well and soon. Since we are returned here, we are working courageously and try to do the Nursing like in America but it's not so easy, and there are many difficulties on the way!

And you? my dear Miss Parsons? How are you? Are you still so busy? It was such a work to be the superintendent of a big Training School! Is the French Nurse (M^{lle} Ravina) still there? If yes, will you, please, remember us to her. Very often, we speak about our interesting stay in U.S.

We should like so much to go once more
"over there!"

Perhaps you not come to Europe? We would be so
glad to see you again!

Please, dear Miss Parsons, let us know something
about you. It is a ²such big joy for us to have
some news of America!

With many kind regards,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

Isakella Ramsy

Madeline Parson.

LEWIS M. THOMPSON
PRES. & GEN'L MANAGER

THE MADISON SQUARE

37 MADISON AVENUE

TELEPHONE
MADISON SQUARE 3900

NEW YORK

New-York, 9th of May 1920.

My dear Miss Parsons,

We are arrived safely in New-York, after a bad voyage, specially for Miss Ramy who was sea sick almost all the time! For me, I was good sailor and came through without any trouble.

Dear Miss Parsons, we have a so good remembrance from our stay in Boston, that we will again express to you our best thanks for all what you have done for us.

You make our time in your hospital, so nice, so interesting and so comfortable, that we will never forget your kindness: you ~~was~~ just like a mother for the two Belgian nurses!

You know how we admired deeply your training school and how we liked the spirit we found in it. You can be proud, indeed, of your school, and be also congratulated, then, all depend from the superintendent. We thank you also so much for the two nice books you gave us. This about "Nursing Problems", is really specially interesting and we read it almost entirely.

Please, will you remember us to Misses Sally Mervin, Frosier, Henderson, and Ellis and thank them all for their kindness to us. If you come sometimes to Belgium, we hope to receive your visit. Believe us, dear Miss Parsons, your very sincerely and gratefully,
Isabelle Framy Thaddeus Bansa.

1-93. D10-122 Superintendent of Nurses

1 Nursing Schools

